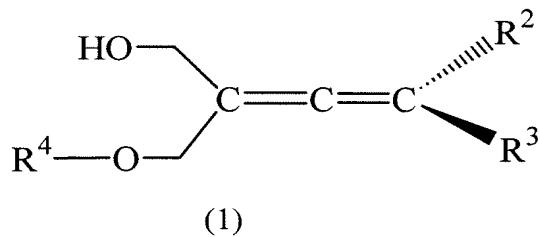


Amendments to the Claims:

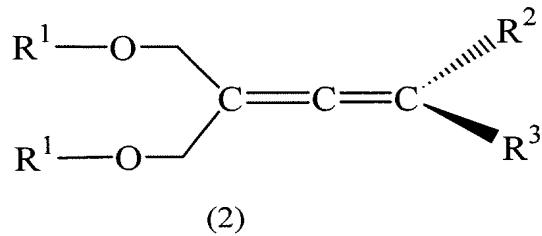
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing an optically active allene represented by formula (1):



wherein R² and R³ are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₆₋₂₀ aryl group, and R⁴ represents an acyl group, which comprises reacting an allene derivative represented by formula (2):



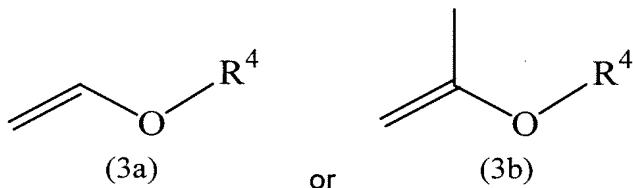
wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted acyl group and R² and R³ have the same meaning as defined above, with an acylating agent having an acyl group represented by R⁴ when both R¹'s are each a hydrogen atom or with water when both R¹'s are each an acyl group represented by R⁴, in the presence of an enzyme catalyst.

2. (Original) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme catalyst is a lipase enzyme or an esterase enzyme.

3. (Original) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 2, wherein the enzyme catalyst is at least one member selected from the group

consisting of *Candida Antarctica* lipase, *Pseudomonas fluorescens* lipase, *Pseudomonas cepacia* lipase, porcine pancreatic lipase, porcine liver esterase and *Candida rugosa* lipase.

4. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein the acylating agent is a compound represented by:



wherein R⁴ represents an acyl group.

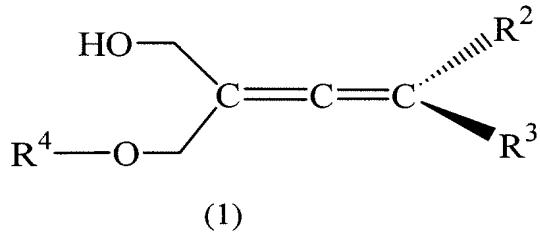
5. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀ alkylcarbonyl group or an optionally substituted C₆₋₂₀ arylcarbonyl group.

6. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein R² and R³ are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₆₋₁₀ aryl group.

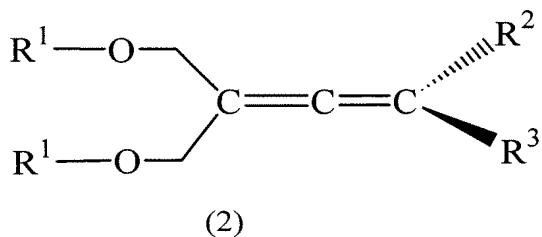
7. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein R² and R³ are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₄ alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₆₋₈ aryl group.

8. (Previously Presented) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 1, wherein R⁴ is an acetyl group, a butyryl group or a benzoyl group.

9. (New) A process for producing an optically active allene represented by formula (1):



wherein R² and R³ are different and each represents a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C₁₋₂₀ alkyl group or an optionally substituted C₆₋₂₀ aryl group, and R⁴ represents an acyl group, which comprises reacting an allene derivative represented by formula (2):



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted acyl group and R² and R³ have the same meaning as defined above, with an acylating agent having an acyl group represented by R⁴ when both R¹'s are each a hydrogen atom or with water when both R¹'s are each an acyl group represented by R⁴, in the presence of a lipase enzyme which is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Candida antarctica lipase, Pseudomonas fluorescens lipase, Pseudomonas cepacia lipase, Porcine pancreatic lipase and Candida rugosa lipase.

10. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 9, wherein the lipase enzyme is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Candida antarctica lipase, Pseudomonas fluorescens lipase, Pseudomonas cepacia lipase and Porcine pancreatic lipase.

11. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to claim 9, wherein the lipase enzyme is at least one member selected from the group consisting of Candida antarctica lipase, Pseudomonas fluorescens lipase and Pseudomonas cepacia lipase.

12. (New) The process for producing an optically active allene according to any one of claim 9 to 11, wherein R⁴ is an acetyl group, a butyryl group or a benzoyl group.